



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWO AUSTIN MEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR
STRING OF ARMED ROBBERIES**

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Austin, 26-year-old Michael Medina and 21-year-old Joseph Anthony Lopez were sentenced to 572 months and 252 months in federal prison, respectively, for their roles in a series of Austin-area convenience store robberies.

In addition to their prison terms, United States District Judge Sam Sparks ordered the defendants to pay \$22,181.38 restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing their prison terms.

Between October 2003 and June 2004, the defendants conspired together in the commission of 27 convenience store robberies. Authorities estimate that the defendants collected over \$28,000 in cash from their illegal robbery spree.

"Today, these violent robbers got the punishment that they so justly deserved; decades behind bars," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On August 28, 2005, Lopez pleaded guilty to conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, conspiracy to use and carry a firearm during a crime of violence and one substantive count of using or carrying a firearm during a crime of violence. That same day, Medina pleaded guilty to the same offenses plus one additional substantive count of using or carrying a firearm during a crime of violence.

Medina and Lopez, along with Andrew Lee Frausto were charged in a 11-count federal grand jury indictment returned on March 1, 2005. Frausto is awaiting trial on two counts each of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery and use or carrying a firearm during a crime of violence, plus one count of conspiracy to use and carry a firearm during a crime of violence. Frausto's trial is pending.

This case was investigated by the Austin Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorneys Gerald C. Carruth and Matthew B. Devlin are prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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